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## Stop punishing the homeless

Here we go again, criminalizing these very poor folks without a home to go to. Their only "crime" is being too impoverished to afford the outrageously overpriced rents. Aren't these people being punished enough for having to live in these degrading conditions? It is not their fault that they live under this very dysfunctional free market gone wild, an economic system that has failed to include this whole segment of the population.

All it would take is a progressive tax on a tiny fraction of income at the top to enable a basic decent home for all. And the ultimate irony is that we are already spending that much, plus more on homeless shelters, emergency medical care, police enforcement, courts, prisons, etc., without solving the homeless problem. Federal studies have shown that the Housing First approach is the way to get folks back on their feet.

We can do the right thing and make sure no one goes without a place to call home, or we can continue to push these poor folks further into this homeless abyss, leaving us in disgrace with a big scar on our collective conscious.

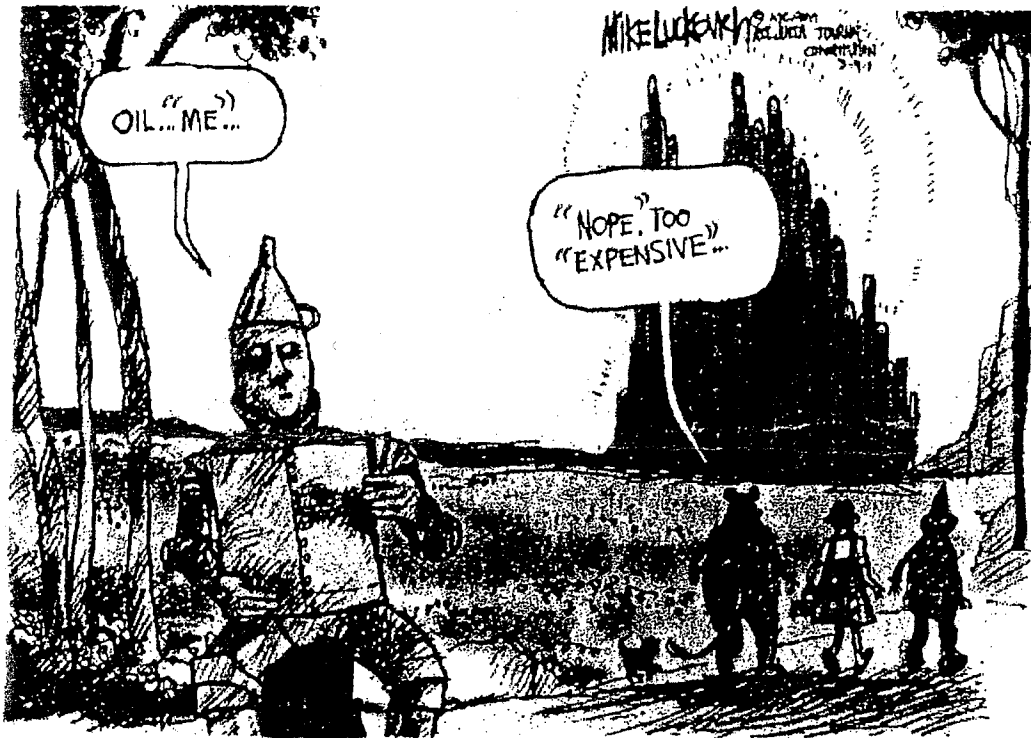
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## Budget Cuts

[http://www.truthdig.com/cartoon/item/budget\\_cuts\\_20110308/](http://www.truthdig.com/cartoon/item/budget_cuts_20110308/)

Posted on Mar 8, 2011

By Mike Luckovich



"NOPE," WILL END UP A VERY  
HIGH COST IF YOU LEAVE  
"ME" BEHIND AND DON'T  
"OIL" "ME." AND THAT  
WILL BE THE MOST "EXPENSIVE"!  
ASK ANY ONE WITHOUT A HOME!